

Montgomery County Circuit Court Research Bulletin

FY2013 Case Processing Performance - Juvenile Delinquency

Case Processing Performance - Overview

In Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13), the Montgomery County Circuit Court closed a total of 861 juvenile delinquency cases, 145 fewer terminations (14%) than the number of delinquency cases processed in FY12 (1,006). FY13 was the first time that the court processed fewer than 1,000 cases since it began assessing its juvenile delinquency case processing performance in FY04. The state-defined time standard and associated performance goal for juvenile delinquency cases is to close 98% of cases within 90 days from the first appearance of the respondent or entry of respondent's counsel to case disposition. In FY13, the within-standard performance is 95%, which maintains the performance level from FY12. The overall average case time (ACT) increased to 49 days in FY13 from 45 in FY12, the longest (average case time) since FY04. The increase in the overall ACT in FY13 was driven by increases in both the within-standard and over-standard ACTs.

Table D.1 Number of Juvenile Delinquency Case Terminations FY04-FY13

Fiscal Year	Terminations		Within-Standard Terminations			Over-Standard Terminations		
	N	ACT*	N	% of Total	ACT*	N	% of Total	ACT*
FY04	1,521	43	1,490	98%	39	31	2%	198
FY05	1,431	40	1,416	99%	39	15	1%	122
FY06	1,651	40	1,634	99%	39	17	1%	143
FY07	1,485	41	1,455	98%	40	30	2%	119
FY08†	(510)	46	(484)	95%	42	(26)	5%	127
FY09	1,384	47	1,324	96%	43	60	4%	134
FY10	1,316	45	1,261	96%	42	55	4%	113
FY11	1,092	46	1,059	97%	44	33	3%	111
FY12	1,006	45	953	95%	42	53	5%	115
FY13	861	49	815	95%	45	46	5%	125

Maryland juvenile delinquency case time standard and goal: 90 days (3 months) and 98% within-standard terminations

* ACT = average case time (in days)

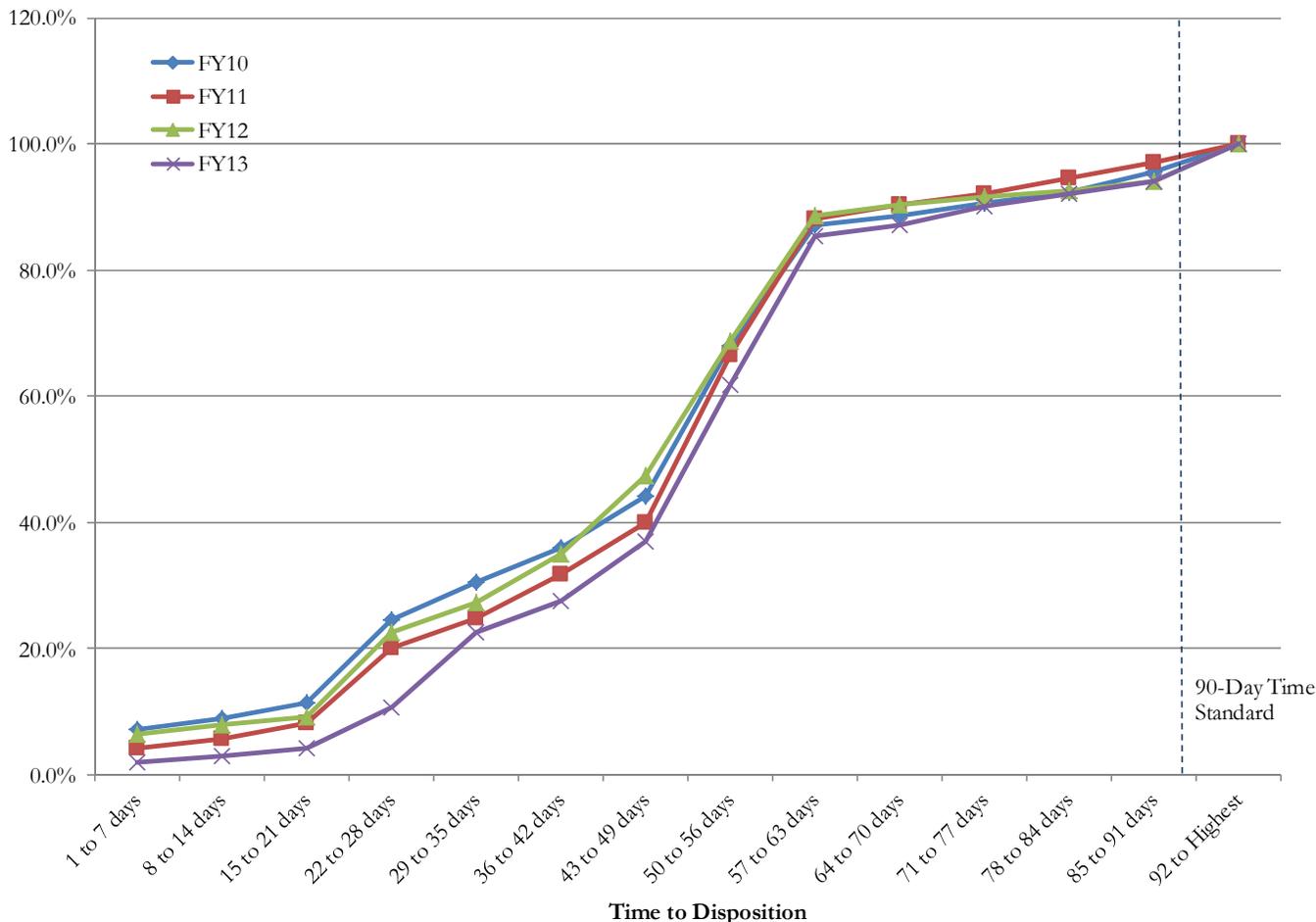
† The full juvenile caseload for FY08 is 1,492. The 510 cases for which performance data is provided represent a random sampling of the total FY08 caseload.

Delinquency Termination Profiles

Figure 1 displays termination profiles for delinquency cases; that is, the cumulative percent of cases closed within defined time periods for FY10 through FY13. The termination profile for FY13 cases trails behind the profiles for cases in the other reported fiscal years primarily during the pre-adjudication period, which suggests the need to review the effectiveness of our case management events that normally would drive early resolution. Following the 77th day, the profile for FY13 terminations begins to align closely with the other termination profiles.

Delinquency Termination Profiles, Continued

Figure 1 Termination Profiles of Juvenile Delinquency Cases, FY10-FY13



Terminations by Differentiated Case Management (DCM) Track

Table 2 provides the number of terminations of juvenile delinquency cases by termination status (within- versus over-standard) and DCM track.¹ Similar to previous years, over 80% (83%) of juvenile delinquency cases closed in FY13 are assigned to Track 2 (non-detention) with the remaining 17% assigned to Track 1 (detention). In FY13, the case processing performance of Track 1 cases exceeded the 98% performance goal by closing 99% within the 90-day time standard. In contrast, 94% of Track 2 cases closed within the time standard. Thus, the case processing performance of juvenile delinquency cases largely hinges upon case composition (including Track assignment) and the court's case processing performance of Track 2 cases.

Table 2 FY13 Juvenile Delinquency Case Terminations by Termination Status (Within or Over the 3-month Standard) and DCM Track

DCM Track	Overall Terminations			Within-Standard Terminations				Over-Standard Terminations			
	N	% of Total	ACT*	N	% of WST*	% of Track	ACT*	N	% of OST*	% of Track	ACT*
Track 1 - Detention	148	17%	30	146	18%	99%	29	2	4%	1%	99
Track 2 - Non-Detention	713	83%	54	669	82%	94%	49	44	96%	6%	126
Total	861	100%	49	815	100%	95%	45	46	100%	5%	125

* ACT = Average Case Time, in days; WST = Within-Standard Terminations; OST = Over-Standard Terminations.

Note: Percentages do not always add to 100% due to rounding.

¹ For additional information about the juvenile delinquency DCM plan, including detailed descriptions of the DCM tracks, please visit the court's website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/circuitcourt/attorneys/dcm.html>.

Case Terminations by Adjudication Hearing Postponements

As displayed in Table 3, 31% of the juvenile delinquency cases that closed during FY13 had at least one adjudication hearing postponement compared to 26% in FY12. Of the postponed case, 89% closed within the 90-day time standard (90% for FY12). Among FY13 cases without adjudication hearing postponements, 97% of cases closed within the 90-day time standard. While all Track 1 (i.e., detention) cases without adjudication hearing postponements closed within-standard, 18 of 501 (4%) of Track 2 (i.e., non-detention) cases without such postponements resulted in over-standard terminations. Possible reasons for cases closing over-standard without an adjudication hearing postponement include: 1) postponement(s) of the disposition hearing, and/or 2) scheduling the initial disposition hearing to a date beyond the time standard.² In FY13, while the overall distribution of postponed cases and the distribution of postponed cases closing within-standard resembles that for other fiscal years, it differs for postponed cases closing over-standard. A much higher percentage of over-standard terminations (57%) had multiple adjudication hearing postponements in FY13 compared to FY12 (12%), FY11 (24%) and FY10 (33%). The data also reveals that the primary reason for postponing an adjudicatory hearing in FY13 is “Calendar Conflict – Party Needs to Get Affairs in Order” (74%).

Table 3 FY13 Juvenile Delinquency Case Terminations by Postponements, Termination Status (Within or Over the 3-month Standard), and DCM Track

DCM Track	Total Terminations	Overall Terminations			Within-Standard Terminations			Over-Standard Terminations		
		N	% of Total Track	ACT*	N	% of Track	ACT*	N	% of Track	ACT*
With Postponements										
Track 1 (Detention)	148	54	36%	37	52	96%	35	2	4%	99
Track 2 (Non-Detention)	713	212	30%	67	186	88%	60	26	12%	120
Total	861	266	31%	61	238	89%	54	28	11%	119
Without Postponements										
Track 1 (Detention)	148	94	64%	25	94	100%	25	0	0%	---
Track 2 (Non-Detention)	713	501	70%	48	483	96%	45	18	4%	135
Total	861	595	69%	44	577	97%	41	18	3%	3%

* ACT = Average case time, in days.

Note: Percentages do not always add to 100% due to rounding.

Next Steps

- ◆ The current statewide time standard for juvenile delinquency cases requires that 98% of cases reach disposition within 90 days from the first appearance of the respondent or respondent’s counsel regardless whether respondents are detained or not detained. However, the Maryland Rules provide different time restrictions on the processing of delinquency cases depending on the respondent’s detention status. The court should examine the impact of detention status on case processing performance.
- ◆ Compare the attorney of record information in the court’s case management system and the presence of parties’ attorney at key court events as this information may help inform future analyses of party representation.

² If a judge orders a pre-disposition investigation (including a SASCA or psychological evaluation) at adjudication and receives the report prior to or at disposition, case time is suspended.